

REMARKS

Claims 29-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-28 are canceled and claims 29-38 are added. Support for claims 29-38 may be found, for example, in the original claims. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. New Claims

By this Amendment, new claims 29-38 are presented. The new claims are directed to subject matter originally presented for examination because they are directed to a method for stretching a preform. Further, claims 29-38 are believed to be patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed below. Accordingly, examination and allowance of new claims 29-38 are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5-9, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,608,071 to Yokokawa et al. (herein "Yokokawa"). By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-9, 12, and 13 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. To the extent that the rejection is believed to apply to new claims 29-38, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 29 recites that "during stretching of the perform, the gripping means on a side of an end product of the preform is held in a position relative to the body of the drawer irrespective of a direction of stretching" (emphasis added).

Yokokawa at least fails to teach this claim feature. Rather, Yokokawa discloses a method that stretches the glass preform where both gripping means and the end product are moved in relation to the body of the drawer. See Yokokawa, column 3, lines 38-57. The quality of the end product is reduced because moving the end product by moving both

gripping means relative to the body of the drawer produces oscillations that negatively affect the quality.

Thus, claim 29 would not have been anticipated by Yokokawa. Claims 30-38 depend from claim 29 and, thus, also would not have been anticipated by Yokokawa for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Yokokawa and Symborski

The Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Yokokawa and U.S. Patent No. 4,194,896 to Symborski et al. (herein "Symborski"). By this Amendment, claim 4 is canceled, rendering its rejection moot. To the extent that the rejection is believed to apply to new claims 29-38, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, Yokokawa fails to teach that "during stretching of the preform, the gripping means on a side of an end product is held in position relative to the body of the drawer irrespective of the direction of stretching," as required by claim 29. Symborski, which is applied by the Office Action for the additional features recited in canceled claim 4, does not cure the deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29.

Thus, the combination of Yokokawa and Symborski would not have rendered obvious claim 29. Claims 30-38 depend from claim 29 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by the combination of Yokokawa and Symborski for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Yokokawa and Yamamura

The Office Action rejects claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Yokokawa and U.S. Patent No. 6,220,057 to Yamamura et al. (herein

"Yamamura"). By this Amendment, claims 10 and 11 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. To the extent that the rejection is believed to apply to new claims 29-38, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29 are discussed above. Yamamura, which is applied by the Office Action for the additional features recited in canceled claims 10 and 11, does not cure the deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29.

Thus, the combination of Yokokawa and Yamamura would not have rendered obvious claim 29. Claims 30-38 depend from claim 29 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by the combination of Yokokawa and Yamamura for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

C. Yokokawa and McMoore

The Office Action rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Yokokawa and U.S. Patent No. 4,889,295 to McMoore Jr. et al. (herein "McMoore"). By this Amendment, claim 14 is canceled, rendering its rejection moot. To the extent that the rejection is believed to apply to new claims 29-38, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29 are discussed above. McMoore, which is applied by the Office Action for the additional features recited in canceled claim 14, does not cure the deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29.

Thus, the combination of Yokokawa and Yamamura would not have rendered obvious claim 29. Claims 30-38 depend from claim 29 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by the combination of Yokokawa and Yamamura for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

D. Yokokawa and Fleming

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Yokokawa and U.S. Patent No. 5,578,106 to Fleming Jr. et al. (herein "Fleming"). By this Amendment, claim 15 is canceled, rendering its rejection moot. To the extent that the rejection is believed to apply to new claims 29-38, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29 are discussed above. Fleming, which is applied by the Office Action for the additional features recited in canceled claim 15, does not cure the deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29.

Thus, the combination of Yokokawa and Fleming would not have rendered obvious claim 29. Claims 30-38 depend from claim 29 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by the combination of Yokokawa and Fleming for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

E. Yokokawa and Drummond

The Office Action rejects claims 16-19, 21-25, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Yokokawa and U.S. Patent No. 4,033,741 to Drummond (herein "Drummond"). By this Amendment, claims 16-19, 21-25, and 28 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. To the extent that the rejection is believed to apply to new claims 29-38, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29 are discussed above. Drummond, which is applied by the Office Action for the additional features recited in canceled claims 16-19, 21-25, and 28, does not cure the deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29.

Thus, the combination of Yokokawa and Drummond would not have rendered obvious claim 29. Claims 30-38 depend from claim 29 and, thus, also would not have been

rendered obvious by the combination of Yokokawa and Drummond for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

F. Yokokawa, Drummond, and Symborski

The Office Action rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Yokokawa, Drummond, and Symborski. By this Amendment, claim 20 is canceled, rendering its rejection moot. To the extent that the rejection is believed to apply to new claims 29-38, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29 are discussed above. Drummond and Symborski, which are applied by the Office Action for the additional features recited in canceled claim 20, does not cure the deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29.

Thus, the combination of Yokokawa, Drummond, and Symborski would not have rendered obvious claim 29. Claims 30-38 depend from claim 29 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by the combination of Yokokawa Drummond, and Symborski for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

G. Yokokawa, Drummond, and Yamamura

The Office Action rejects claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Yokokawa, Drummond, and Yamamura. By this Amendment, claims 26 and 27 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. To the extent that the rejection is believed to apply to new claims 29-38, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29 are discussed above. Drummond and Yamamura, which is applied by the Office Action for the additional features

recited in canceled claims 26 and 27, do not cure the deficiencies of Yokokawa with respect to claim 29.

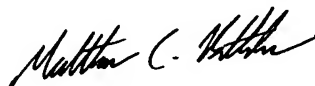
Thus, the combination of Yokokawa, Drummond, and Yamamura would not have rendered obvious claim 29. Claims 30-38 depend from claim 29 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by the combination of Yokokawa, Drummond, and Yamamura for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 12, 2009

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